

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank Examiner Angebrannt for the constructive 11/29/07 interview. During that meeting, applicants explained that they are a startup company exploring new materials for optical lithography. Applicants explained that nanoparticles provide a unique set of properties that can be used for lithography. Examiner Angebrannt offered that he has a Ph.D in Laser Spectroscopy from the University of Florida and, based on his academic and examining experience, is familiar with relevant field(s).

Examiner Angebrannt said that in reviewing the prior art in light of applicants' 11/12/07 Amendment, he noted that the applied Naito reference at paragraph 3 indicated problems with "applying on a resist the thin film" whereas applicants' specification specifically describes (e.g., at paragraphs 40, 42, 49) various techniques for coating contrast enhancement material on top of the resist. Examiner Angebrannt indicated that it would be helpful to further amend independent claim 17 to recite coating. The applicants and the Examiner discussed that Naito appears to teach away from coating by disclosing use of a separate film on a separate (transparent) substrate that is pressed onto the resist.

Applicants have further amended their independent claim 17 as the Examiner suggested to require "coating." Applicants have also amended dependent claim 27 for sake of consistency and added additional dependent claims reciting different coating techniques and different wavelengths. Applicants have also added a further dependent claim (49) reciting that "collecting includes passing said light through at least one lens."

Finally, supplemental to their 11/3/06 Information Disclosure Statement citing copending commonly-assigned patent applications, applicants apprised Examiner

Angebranntdt that their copending commonly assigned application no. 10/792,377 entitled "Application of Semiconductor Nano-Sized Particles in Photolithography System" is currently being examined by Examiner Raymond of Art Unit 1756. Claims in that case are currently under rejection based on US Patent No. 6,440,637 and US Patent Publications Nos. 2002/0182541 & 2005/0173682 (see Office Action dated 6/4/07).

All outstanding issues have been addressed and this application is in condition for allowance. Should only minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so they can be resolved expeditiously without need of a further written action.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Robert W. Faris/
Robert W. Faris
Reg. No. 31,352

RWF:ejs
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100